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THE INSCRIPTIONS ON THE TOMBSTONES AT THE OLD PARISH CHURCH OF ST. JAMES'S SANTEE, NEAR ECHAW CREEK.

At the request of a member* of the South Carolina Historical Society Mr. David Doar of South Santee river went to the site of the old parish church of St. James's, Santee, and copied the inscriptions on such stones as still remain in a legible condition.

The first church erected on the spot was built under the provisions of an Act of the General Assembly passed 12th June, 1714, as a Parochial Chapel of Ease to the Parish Church which until 1754 was at French James Town. In 1731 the site of the Chapel of Ease was transferred to a spot lower down near Wambaw Creek and the Chapel at Echaw seems to have been allowed to fall into ruin, for by an Act passed 8th March, 1742, the building of the Chapel lower down was changed and it was directed to be built on or near the place where the old Chapel at Echaw stood. The second Echaw Chapel was built of brick and completed in 1748. In 1751 the Parish of St. James, Santee, was divided, the Parish of St. Stephen being formed out of the upper part and the Chapel of Ease at Echaw was declared to be the Parish Church in place of the Church at James Town. In 1766, according to Mr. Woodmason's account the Church (presumably that at James Town) had fallen to decay some years previous and service was performed at what was formerly a Chapel of Ease (presumably Echaw). In 1768 another Church was directed to be built near Wambaw Bridge over Wambaw Creek to be the Parish Church of St. James Santee, the Church at Echaw being converted back into a Chapel of Ease. As late as 1819 the Brick Church at Echaw was according to Dr. Dalcho still used for divine services.

The old Church site is on the public road on the south

*Mr. Henry A. M. Smith, who has written the above account of the Church.

side of Santee river, between the public road and the river, and on the east side of Echaw Creek near the bridge over that Creek, where it is crossed by the public road. It is about seven miles distant to the eastward from the site of French James Town and about sixty miles from Charleston.

The following is M^r^. Doar's account of his visit and the inscriptions copied by him:

Santee, May 7th., 1911.

H. A. M. Smith, Esq.
Charleston, S. C.

* * * * * * * * *

It took me a buggy ride of nine hours, through the most Godforsaken, uninhabited, dreary country I have ever seen. The old roads & landmarks so blocked & defaced, since I was there 20 years ago, that I was lost more than once. It was a sad ride to me & very depressing to see this old land of the Huguenots, once teeming with plenty & prosperity, with a generous hospitable people enjoying each others company & every happiness, now utterly devastated & deserted, given over to beasts, reptiles & birds, even the forests gone & scarcely a human being met with during a day's drive. They say that no country is great without its ruins, this is probably true, for it shows a great past, but God forbid that I should witness many more times, such ruins, or go through what I felt, as I stood amid the tangled wilderness where once stood the Church of our Parish & of our forefathers, & the crumbling desecrated graves of the sturdy men & gentle, helpful women who worshipped here.

The Church is a pile of bricks (*such as have been left by thieves*), covered up with fallen trees & briers, with only a small piece of the arch of one door left, which I brought away, in memory of "Auld lang Syne". There have been & still are a great many graves there, but many of them were covered with brick, with some half & others wholly demolished, & of course, had no inscriptions. Some of the tombstones lie scattered around broken, therefore could not be deciphered, & I am told some of them have been carried

off for hearthstones &c. Rev. & Col. Warren's tomb is nearly to pieces, & the Slab on top of it broken in several pieces, with some of the smaller lost. I had great difficulty in putting them together in order to get epitaph I send you. I put it in best shape I could before I left, but how long it will remain so I cannot tell. This Church (Echaw) about 10 miles below "Jamestown" was the second built on same spot, 1st of wood 1714 & this one of Brick 1748. It was used occasionally, after the present Parish church was built, 1768, until early part of 19th century, say 1830 or '40, when it was abandoned, except for burial by the old people who had an affection for it. In 1864, as a boy, I rode into it when only the four walls were standing & the roof falling in. How often since have I regretted not having observed it more closely or taking note of its interior or of the graves around it. But how van are regrets, after we have let the precious moment slip without doing the right.

* * * * * * * * *

Yours very Sincerely,

David Doar.

INSCRIPTIONS.

Warren.

Beneath this Marble is deposited the body of the Rev. Samuel Fenner Warren, who was for thirty one years the faithful pastor of St. James, Santee. The friend and able adviser of his Flock, in temporal as well as their eternal interest. A true uncompromising supporter of the State, when assailed by the British Government, for which he suffered with fortitude and resignation until National independence was established and the blessings of peace restored.

His Son, Col. Samuel Warren is buried in the same grave. He was born near the spot where his mortal remains repose, and at an early age was sent to England for his education, under the care of his uncle, John Warren, Bishop of Bangor. But when War ravaged his native State, his gallant Spirit compelled him to her Rescue. Breaking through all restraint and the influence of digni-

fied relations, he returned immediately and took up arms in her defence. At the age of eighteen, when leading his Command against the British lines (a break in stone here) He received a bullet in his leg, but supported himself upon his sword until another hit him in the knee and shattered the thigh bone he fell, and was taken from the field into Savannah. His thigh was amputated and he survived and continued to perform in the Army, until establishment of National independence and restoration of peace in the year of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and eighty three. Col. Warren was a true friend of the Children of his early associates, most of whom he survived; directing their education gratuitously, and faithfully discharging his duties of executor & guardian. He was distinguished by South Carolina with high and honorable Trust, served long in each branch of the Legislature, was made President of the Senate, and was offered appointment of Governor, which he declined. Late in life he removed to District of Pendleton, and there died suddenly on last day of November, 1841, in 79th year of his age, honored and respected as a patriot, a man of probity and a friend. This Monumental Slab bears Testimony of the esteem and gratitude of many who honored him in life and reverenced his memory.

Horry.

Sacred to the memory of Col. Elias Horry, a native of this Parish.

He was Born December 24th 1707 and died December 18th 1783, in the 76th year of his age.

In memory of Hannah Simons wife of Mr. Anthony Simons, who departed this life Oct 22nd 1787 Aged 39 yrs 9 months and twelve days.

My Saviour shall my life restore,
And raise me from my dark abode,
My flesh and Soul shall part no more,
But dwell forever near my God.

Here Lies the remains of Lewis Du Pre, Son of Daniel and Mary Du Pre, Who died Aug 18th 1787 Aged 20 years, 9 months & twenty days.

(*No Inscriptions on Stones below.*)

T. G. Skrine	I. O. S. 1817
I. Skrine 1831	I. A. S. 1828
	M. S. M. H. 1837

Sacred to memory of Sarah Jerman, Wife of Edward Jerman, Born Jan 1752 and died March 1824

In memory of Esther Berresford Dozier, Wife of Anthony White Dozier and daughter of William Gaillard, She departed this Life in Georgetown, S. C. 29th April 1828, Aged 18 years 9 months and 23 days

Can we weep too much, shall time e'er end
Our mourning for so dear a friend,
Youthful and fair like the flowers,
Bloomed to Grace a few Transient hours.

Sacred to memory of Ann Porcher, daughter of John S. & E. S. Palmer, Born Dec 23rd 1834 and departed this life Jan 16th 1839

Sacred to memory of James Edward Jerman, Son of Edward & Sarah Jerman Born 26th April 1782 and died Nov 14th 1830

Sacred to memory of Mrs. Rebecca Allston Jerman, daughter of Samuel and Mary S. DuPree and relict of Hon. James E. Jerman, Who died on April 11th 1851 in 55th year of her age.

"She sleeps in death to awake in her Saviour's image."

Sacred to the memory of Mrs. Rebecca Verree, daughter of Sarah & Edward Jerman & relict of George Verree of Charleston, Born April 12th 1782 and died June 7th 1841

Sacred to memory of George Verree, son of George and Rebecca Verree died 30th Aug 1812 aged 8 years three months and one day

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Sacred to memory of Thomas Satur Jerman Son of Sarah and Edward Jerman, Born Aug 7th 1773 and died 12th of March 1812.

May 5th 1911.

Rest of Stones broken or carried off, & those vaults of Brick demolished with nothing by which those buried under can be identified.